

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
/057 W

-----032103Z 057091 /66

R 031209Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 357
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0062

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJECT: MORE MP'S RELEASED FROM JAIL: RELAXATION OR ONLY
AN EXPRESSION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE?

REF: 76 NEW DELHI A-337

1. SINCE DISPATCH OF REFAIRGRAM, SEVERAL MORE MP'S HAVE BEEN
RELEASED FROM PREVENTIVE DETENTION, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS
REPORTS: (A) SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA, FLOOR LEADER OF THE CONGRESS
(O) GROUP IN THE LOK SABHA. MISHRA HAD BEEN RELEASED ON PAROLE
IN AUGUST, AND SAMACHAR REPORTED HIS UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE
ON DECEMBER 29.

(B) RAM DHAN, DECEMBER 30. DHAN WAS ONE OF THE FEW CONGRESS (R)
MP'S TO BE DETAINED AFTER THE EMERGENCY. IN MAY OF 1975, HE WAS
ELECTED AS ONE OF THE TWO SECRETARIES OF THE CONGRESS PAR-
LIAMENTARY PARTY. FOLLOWING HIS ARREST IN LATE JUNE, DHAN HAD
BEEN SUSPENDED FROM THE CONGRESS;

(C) MADHU DANDAVATE AND RABI RAY, DECEMBER 31. DANDAVATE IS A
SOCIALIST MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA, WHILE RAY IS A BLD MEMBER OF
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THE RAJYA SABHA.

2. THIS LATEST BATCH OF RELEASED MP'S BRINGS DOWN THE NUMBER OF
DETAINED MP'S (LOK SABHA) TO 15 AND IN THE RAJYA SABHA TO 9.
MP'S RELEASED FROM DETENTION BUT STILL ON PAROLE NOW NUMBER FIVE
(LOK SABHA) AND ONE (RAJYA SABHA). WE ALSO HEAR A STRONG RUMOR
TODAY THAT LOK SABHA CONGRESS (O) LEADER MORARJI DESAI IS ALSO

DUE TO BE RELEASED VERY SHORTLY.

3. COMMENT: THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF THESE RELEASES, AND PRESUMABLY MORE TO COME IF THE TREND CONTINUES, MAY BE TO ADD PUBLIC CREDIBILITY TO MRS. GANDHI'S COMMENTS THAT SHE INTENDS TO RELAX THE EMERGENCY AND RELEASE PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED AS AND WHEN THIS SEEMS FEASIBLE. SO FAR THOSE POLITICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED HAVE BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL AND AT A LOSS TO KNOW HOW TO PROCEED POLITICALLY ONCE THEY ARE AT LIBERTY. MRS. GANDHI MAY HAVE BEEN EMBOLDENED BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY DISTURBANCES OR EFFECTIVE POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY THE RELEASEES TO CONTINUE DOWN THIS TRACK. OF COURSE, THE CONTINUING TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON THE HOLDING OF POLITICAL MEETINGS AND THE INABILITY OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS TO GET THEIR VIEWS INTO THE PRESS REPRESENT A MAJOR CONTINUING BARRIER TO THEIR ATTEMPTING ANY EFFECTIVE ACTIVITY.

4. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED INDICATIONS THAT INCREASING NUMBERS OF PERSONS HELD UNDER MISA SINCE EMERGENCY, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE RSS AND JAN SANGH, ARE BEING RELEASED. AS WITH THE RELEASE OF MORE PROMINENT POLITICIANS, WE SUSPECT THAT THIS REFLECTS THE GOVT'S CONFIDENCE THAT IT CAN CONTROL AND CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITHOUT HOLDING THEM UNDER PHYSICAL DETENTION. MANY OF THESE PERSONS WERE ORIGINALLY ONLY ARRESTED AS A PRECAUTION AND FOR CONTINGENCY PURPOSES RATHER THAN BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED ACTIVELY DANGEROUS. THE EMERGENCY IS BEING RELAXED IN THAT THE DRAGNET WHICH SWEEPED UP NUMEROUS OPPOSITION CADRES IS BEING REFINED AND NARROWED; WE SEE NO SIGNS THUS FAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVT'S POWERS UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EMERGENCY TO CONTROL THE PRESS, ACT UNDER MISA, AND RESTRAIN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY IT CONSIDERS "UNDESIRABLE", WILL BE ATTENUATED
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAROLE, LEGISLATORS, ARRESTS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE00062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770002-0327
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770185/aaaacwhb.tel
Line Count: 101
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: c4dde4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NEW DELHI A-337
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3673017
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE MP'S RELEASED FROM JAIL: RELAXATION OR ONLY AN EXPRESSION OF SELF-CONFIDENCE?
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c4dde4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009